AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving a metallic paint color of an approximate color, comprising:

a step of storing color classification codes of a plurality of metallic paint colors in a memory of a computer;

a step of measuring the multi-angle colorimetric value CIE Lab* of a specific metallic paint color;

a step of deciding a color classification code to which the specific metallic color belongs in accordance with the multi-angle colorimetric value CIE Lab*;

a step of inputting the color classification code to which the specific metallic ~~paint~~ color belongs to the computer; and

a step of retrieving a metallic paint color of an approximate color by applying approximate-color computation for computing a color difference only to a metallic paint color having [[a]] the same color classification ~~code same~~ as the ~~color classification code~~ one to which the specific metallic ~~paint~~ color belongs among [[a]] the plurality of metallic paint colors stored in the memory of the computer; said approximate-color computation comprising weighting multi-angle colorimetric value.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the color classification code ~~is divided into 5 to 100 (both included) by using the chromatic characteristic of a metallic paint color~~ is a code which is assigned to each of five to 100 groups into which all metallic paint colors have been classified according to their chromatic properties.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein approximate-color computation includes multiplying ~~each angle and each~~ L* value of each angle by a weighted factor so as to correlate with visual observation in each angle area from high-light up to shade when computing a CIE color difference in accordance with the CIE Lab* value of multi-angle.

Claim 4 (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein a weighted factor ranges between 0.5 and 1.0 (both included) at the high-light side {in terms of open angle from specular reflected light between 10° and 25° (both included)}, between 0.5 and 1.5 (both included) at the face side {between 26° and 74° (both included)}, and between 1.0 and 2.0 (both included) at the shade side {between 5° and 110° (both included)}.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein a weighted factor further prevents the difference between brightnesses of high-light from increasing to a degree felt through visual observation or more by multiplying the

~~weighing~~ weighting factor of the brightness L* at the high-light side {between 10° and 25° (both included) in terms of open angle from specular reflected light} by 0.3 to 1.0 (both included).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein when displaying an approximate-color retrieval result on a computer screen, computer graphics of metallic paint colors are displayed starting with the smallest weighted-angle average color difference so that a person can visually select an approximate color.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein when displaying an approximate-color retrieval result on a computer screen, computer graphics of metallic paint colors are displayed starting with the smallest weighted-angle average color difference so that a person can visually select an approximate color.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein when displaying an approximate-color retrieval result on a computer screen, computer graphics of metallic paint colors are displayed starting with the smallest weighted-angle average color difference so that a person can visually select an approximate color.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein when displaying an approximate-color retrieval result on a computer screen, computer graphics of metallic paint colors are displayed starting with the smallest weighted-angle average color difference so that a person can visually select an approximate color.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein when displaying an approximate-color retrieval result on a computer screen, computer graphics of metallic paint colors are displayed starting with the smallest weighted-angle average color difference so that a person can visually select an approximate color.